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P 270854Z JUN 07
FM AMEMBASSY ULAANBAATAR
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1256
INFO RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD 0053
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 2812
RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW 0051
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 5637
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 2536
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1805
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RHHMUNA/PACOM HONOLULU HI
RHMFIUU/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL

UNCLAS ULAANBAATAR 000382

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SUBJECT: Cabinet Approves 8th Rotation to Iraq

REF: Ulaanbaatar 375 and previous

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¶1. (SBU) On June 26, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Americas, Middle East and Africa Director General Jambaldorj confirmed to the Ambassador that the Cabinet had earlier that day approved an 8th rotation of troops to Iraq. Foreign Policy Advisor to the President Tsogtbaatar and Foreign Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister

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Davaasuren separately confirmed this to the DCM as well. Earlier in the day, Ministry of Defense sources told the DATT that Mongolian Armed Forces Chief of Staff LTG Togoo would go before the Cabinet in the afternoon to personally argue for sending the detachment. The 136 troops will depart early on June 30 by chartered flight for Kuwait en route to Iraq. The Ambassador plans to see them off at the airport that day.

¶2. (SBU) COMMENT: The March POTUS phone call to President Enkhbayar was pivotal in terms of nudging the National Security Council (President, Prime Minister, and Speaker) to recommend approval of the 8th rotation to the Cabinet. Achieving this important goal of continuing Mongolia's troop participation in Iraq required heavy lobbying of Mongolian officials at all levels here, most recently by EAP A/S Hill, as well as in Washington. Mongolia has been a faithful ally in Iraq and Afghanistan in part because we have maintained a strong, cooperative military-to-military relationship.

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